Discreapancies, in the Results in Civil Service (Main) Examination, 1998

*166. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were some major discrepancies in the results of Civil Service (Main) Examination, 1998;

(b) if so, the nature and magnitude of the discrepancies and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to rectify the errors and to prevent the recurrence of such errors in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY ' OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Results of Civil Services (Main) Examination, 1998 were published on 25.5.99. Union Public Service Commission partially modified the merit order of the results on 27.8.99 to correct certain discrepancies noticed in the marks secured by three candidates out of 470 qualified candidates. There were, however, no additions or deletions in the list of recommended candidates.

On detection of certain lapses, the Commission had carried out a cent-per-cent scrutiny of coding of answer books of all papers of all candidates who had appeared for the examination so as to ensure that there was no other error in the results. After cent-per-cent scrutiny, the discrepancies detected in respect of the aforesaid three candidates in the published results were rectified by revising the merit order on 27.8.99 on the basis of marks actually scored by each candidate.

The discrepancies had arisen on account of wrong coding of answer books and failure to detect the same at the checking/re-checking stages. This resulted in wrong posting of marks. The wrong coding of answer books was on account of human errors rather than failure of systems and procedures. Suitable departmental action has been initiated for the lapses against the seven officials concerned. The Commission have ordered an internal work study to identify areas of

weaknesses and to strengthen them to avoid recurrence of such discrepancies in future.

Commissioning of Advanced Reactor Using Thorium as Fuel

*168. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an advanced type of heavy water reactor has been designed by the Indian scientists;

(b) if so, the extent of electrical energy using Thorium as fuel can be produced by the said reactor; and

(c) by when the proposed reactor is likely to be ready for commissioning and the cost involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 235 MWe of electrical energy.

(c) Preliminary design of the reactor and the feasibility report is at the conceptual stage. Therefore, the completion of the detailed project report will be possible only by the end of the IX Plan. As such, it may not be possible at this stage to indicate the cost estimate and the timing of the commissioning of the reactor.

Denigration of Sacred Hindu Symbols

*170. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem report appearing in the Asian Age dated. 18.11.99 regarding denigration of sacred symbols and Hindu deities in Australia by depicting them in posters of unmentionable designs; and

(b) If so, what is Government's reaction with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian High Commission had, soon after occurence, taken up the matter with the organisers, to obtain an apology as also to ensuring removal of the offending posters from the Web Gallery. The